

MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, AK
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
TUESDAY
January 15, 2019
6:30 p.m.

The meeting was preceded by a workshop beginning at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Burger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PLEDGE TO FLAG:

The council and audience stood for the pledge to the flag.

3. ROLL CALL:

Those present were:

Edenfield, Slayton, Williams, Hartwell, Burger and McDonald (via phone)

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Burger moved to approve the agenda. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

YEAS: Edenfield, Burger, McDonald, Hartwell, Williams, Slayton.

NAYS: None

STATUS: Passed

5. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Report, December 4, 2018:

1. Landslide took the road and power lines out at about 3-Mile on Kasaan Road on January 1, 2019. The following day Teri, the power company, OVK' s Sara

Yockey, the City of Thorne Bay, the Forest Service - Jim Baichtal, went into action. Thank you to AP&T for back-feeding power to the Southside Thorne Bay via the generator in Kasaan and Gary Anderson for the continuation of ambulance service and food delivery to Davidson Landing.

Jim Silverthorn has arranged to shuttle school kids from Davidson in his boat.

The City of Kasaan has been very helpful applying for funding.

Thank you to the City of Thorne Bay staff – Teri, Lisa, Dana, & Wayne

6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT 1-15-19 Wayne Benner

Meetings Attended and Updates:

- A. I will be leaving February 17th to go south to for prepping to have a hip replacement March 4th.
- B. POWLAT meeting tomorrow at 11 am at the VOTEC center in Klawock to discuss the objections process and POWLAT participation in that process
- C. POWCAC meeting Tue the 22nd at the VOTEC Center in Klawock. Transportation and election of officers is on the agenda.
- D. SE Conference is Feb 12-13 but with all going on and leaving Feb 17 does not look like I will attend the winter session.

Tasks and Projects:

- A. Number one has been the land slide and bypass road. An update will be provided at the end of my report.
- B. Number two has been the water and sewer improvement project
- C. Number 3 has been the baler
- D. And number 4 all the other misc. projects that are in the work plus daily operations.

New Business:

- A. Set public meeting at Southside to provide update. Would recommend that meeting be held when Jim Baichtal can attend as well as OVK and Kasaan.
- B. The City received one request to lease space at Davidson Landing for a convenience store and pizza shop. If the council is interested the city can start the process to prepare a lease and have the interested party start the application process to submit the proposal to the Planning and Zoning Commission where details of the proposal will be reviewed.

Ordinances for Public Hearing: NONE

Ordinances for Introduction: NONE

Expenditures over \$2000:

- A. \$10,000 toward the Lake Ellen bypass road. City of Kasaan and OVK also have authorized \$10,000 each toward the improvements and maintenance of the Bypass. These are funds that would have otherwise been spent on the Kasaan Road.
- B. \$3258.20 for purchase of turbidity meter for water treatment plant. After DEC inspection the old meter could no longer be calibrated, and we need a new meter.
- C. The City authorized funding to purchase wire tie equipment from Accent Wire. The equipment and installation are from Accent Wire, but the purchase is through Pioneer Supply as they are the ones that will be working on the overall baler issues and directing the Accent Wire installer work.

Executive Session: NO

Harbors and Parks: Ron is doing his best to accommodate everyone affected by the slide to have moorage and parking at both harbors.

Streets and Roads: Max and Josh are working closely with OVK to assist as needed.

Water and Sewer: Bids are to be opened February 4th and reviewed the 5 and 6 for the construction of the Water and Sewer improvement. VSW is hoping a general contractor will bid electrical and mechanical included. If awarded construction could begin this spring. We have been working on improvements for over 10 years and finally there is hope.

Solid Waste: I have been in contact with Larry at Pioneer Supply to start the purchasing of the needed equipment to replace and upgrade the wire-tie system on the baler. We have been providing input in how to ship equipment and transportation for Accent Wire to come and install the equipment so Larry from Pioneer Supply can start working on deciphering what in the brains of the system are malfunctioning.

Law Enforcement: Still no word on if or when we might see a VPSO for Thorne Bay.

FIRE/EMS: Sounds like they have a good plan in place for serving southside during the landslide.

Special Projects: Lights for Helipad have been ordered and city will install conduit when maintenance schedule allows some free time.

I am not going to go into too much detail as my notes would comprise numerous pages.

Thorne Bay, City of Kasaan and Organized Village of Kasaan all established disaster declarations and submitted them to the state emergency management operations who will be sharing them with DOT-PF, the Governor and other agencies that become involved in disasters.

Jim Baichtal did a detailed assessment of the slide shortly after it occurred which was / and is being used to provide information to agencies as to what happened and the concerns. An inspection on the 7th still showed unstable conditions. An inspection by Jim last Friday showed the area starting to stabilize after the latest snow and rain event. Even if stable the material cannot be pushed over the bank as it may not stop until entering the Thorne River. Plus, it will just make the slope that much more unstable compounding future road work.

AP&T assisted by OVK (and TB equipment) went to work removing trees only so AP&T could reestablish power knocked out by the slide which was done in less than a week. Work was done being very cautiously due to the instability of the slide and material covering the road. Basically, they straddled the slide area itself.

Thorne Bay, City of Kasaan and Organized Village of Kasaan meet and established an emergency manage plan combining all three communities. A critical step in addressing a disaster and working with state and federal agencies, which establishes a protocol and responsibilities.

Sara Yockey-OVK was placed as the lead for the plan as they had the maintenance agreement with Thorne Bay and had the personnel that could focus solely on the slide. The meeting also set some steps and goals to all to achieve.

First step was to establish an alternative route that was capable of allowing essential services to reach Southside and the community of Kasaan as soon as possible. This required approval from the two land owners (Forest Service and Mental Health Trust) that the bypass road crosses.

The City of Thorne Bay, City of Kasaan and OVK all agreed to commit \$10,000 to improving the Bypass as we could not wait for the slow government funding system to help and there is no assurance there is any outside funding for this type of work. Thorne Bay's share are funds redirected from Kasaan Road maintenance to bypass work.

Since that time OVK as, after a couple days dealing with snow, been working to improve the bypass and it appears by tomorrow there should be no problem getting essential service vehicles over the bypass. Future work as necessary will continue with both OVK and Thorne Bay set to keep the road open and sanded if and when it snows.

The emergency management system is set up such that OVK is pursuing their sources of funding and Thorne Bay and Kasaan are working with the State of Alaska to seek funding. The partial government shutdown is making it difficult to contact the federal government or relay any information. Thorne Bay has provided the state emergency management department all the information they have requested. Our representative and senator are doing what they can to help push for answers and secure funding.

The project is on federal land. The Forest Service granted the city an easement to maintain a public road across their property, with restrictions. The State of Alaska authorities are trying to sort this out to determine which direction to proceed for funding. This means FEMA is part of the equation and they are part of the shutdown.

The initial estimates to reconstruct a safe road through the slide area are in the 2 to 3-million-dollar range and possibly higher depending on the structure of the existing road base. Not money any of us have to draw on, so outside funding is critical for any repairs. And the catch is any work done without approval of the funding agency and property owner may not be reimbursable and we do not know what standard of improvement will be required.

Keep in mind the City does have an agreement to maintain the road but according to documents does not own the right-of-way or any land adjacent. Only permission to maintain a road within a designated right-of-way. Hence the involvement of the Forest Service the best they can pending the furlough

Despite some comments all parties involve all agencies have been working diligently trying to secure funding, get access to those impacted by the situation and trying to assist in what every manner they can. Including updates. Sara Yockey at OVK is doing the updates and press information. OVK is using their Facebook page for information and TB is posting on their web page and around town. City staff tries to stay up on latest updates and are more than happy to share the correct information. Other services that are helping is the Market has a plan to allow people to purchase food and have it shipped to Davidson Landing by Gary Anderson twice a week. City is trying its best to help with moorage and parking and

Jim Silverthorne is working with the school to help transport school children. Klawock EMS has a plan in place for handling emergencies on Southside and Kasaan.

And for the latest update today which will help ease some concerns:

OVK has managed to get someone technical personal from the Federal Highways, Western Federal Lands and BIA to visit the site tomorrow along with Jim Baichtal. Hopefully a first hand tour and the conditions will help show the necessity and urgency of the matter at hand. I am hoping to meet up with them briefly in town before they head to the site.

We were also informed this afternoon that the Fuel and propane deliveries should start tomorrow.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Baichtal – gave a report on the road/landslide

Lester Hubbard – asked about trading with Mental Health for a good road.

Everett Cook – asked a question about blasting rock and asked if he could volunteer to work on the slide.

Bailey Watson – thanked everyone who is working on it (road)

Eric Rhodes – asked about the road being ‘forest service’ but within City limits

Sean Kaer – spoke about the trees that were felled at Davidson Landing and said he thought a bulletin board would be a good idea. He asked if FEMA would be paying for the extra cost that the people were incurring. Asked if there was a fire squad there?

Brad Clark – asked about the easement that the City has on State road/Forest Service land

Glen Douglas – made a statement about a bridge idea from years ago

Eric Rhodes – handed a petition to acting Clerk. Wants a public meeting about a ‘master plan’ for Davidson Landing. He read a statement from Dennis Sylvia.

8. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Ben Williams – asked Wayne to talk to all the state people coming to town to ask about a bridge (from southside to northside).

He also commented to the audience telling them that the Council needs whole community involvement so we can work together.

Bob Hartwell – talked about baler and the cost of hauling (trash) to Klawock

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Thorne Bay – Kasaan Road Landslide, set public meeting date; discussion and action item:

Burger moved to set public meeting on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 12 noon at Davidson Landing. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was discussion to confirm a good date and time and to word the motion accurately.

MOTION: Move to set public meeting on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 12 noon at Davidson Landing.
F/S: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Williams, Burger, Slayton, Hartwell, McDonald, and Edenfield
NAYS: None
STATUS: Passed

B. Interest in Leasing Davidson Landing property – review proposals received: discussion and action item:

Burger moved to listen to their letter of interest and see what their proposals are. To entertain a detailed discussion or description of what they want to do so that we can plan on whether we want it there and it will go out to a public hearing so that it won't snowball anybody. There was further discussion with comments from Williams, to work with the administration, and McDonald, that due to an earlier request, to treat this with kid gloves.

MOTION: Motion to entertain a detailed discussion with party that sent letter of interest.
F/S: Burger/Williams
YEAS: Edenfield, Burger, McDonald, Hartwell, Williams, and Slayton.
NAYS: None
STATUS: Passed

10. ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION: None

11. ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING: None

12. EXPENDITURE EXCEEDING \$2,000.00:

- A. Authorizing the expenditure not to exceed \$10,000.00, for Lake Ellen bypass road, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve the expenditure of \$10,000.00 to keep and maintain the Lake Ellen bypass road. Slayton seconded the motion. Discussion included McDonald stating that we had already started spending money, that we need to cover our tracks to keep Kasaan and the Southside accessible. Slayton stated that when we do exceed \$10,000.00 that the council have an emergency meeting to authorize more money.

MOTION: Move to approve the expenditure of \$10,000.00 for Lake Ellen bypass road.
F/S: Burger/Slayton
YEAS: Burger, McDonald, Edenfield, Hartwell, Williams, and Slayton.
NAYS: None
STATUS: Passed.

- B. Authorizing the expenditure not to exceed \$3258.20 for the purchase of a new Turbidity meter at the Water plant; discussion and action item:

Burger moved to authorize the expenditure not to exceed \$3258.60 for the purchase of a new turbidity meter at the water plant. He stated we need to order a turbidity meter to maintain our water quality standards. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the expenditure of \$3,258.60, for the purchase of a new turbidity meter at the water plant.
F/S: Burger/Williams
YEAS: Edenfield, Burger, McDonald, Hartwell, Williams, Slayton.
NAYS: None
STATUS: Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Larry Watson – asked about getting a streetlight at Kasaan Road

Bailey Watson – asked if a ferry has ever been considered

Everett Cook – thanked councilman Ben Williams for talking about the bridge.

COUNCIL COMMENTS;

McDonald – thanked Vice-Mayor Lee Burger for running the meeting and thanked the public for coming and voicing their concerns.

Edenfield – thanked the public for their patience & concerns and told them about the medication delivery from Whale Tail Pharmacy.

Burger – thanked audience for coming.

Then City Administrator, Wayne Benner answered a few questions from the earlier public comments:

- Bulletin Board = working on it
- Brush clean-up = working on it.

Williams – made a statement about the future spending on road when it exceeds \$10,000.00

ADJOURNMENT:

Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.



Lee Burger, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:



Dana Allison, Acting Clerk